

NAWDP Construction Update

Big changes are coming to NAWDP in 2018!

First up is the imminent launch of a new public web site and private member portal, powered by a new membership database. Phase 1 of implementation will take place in the next few weeks, and entails the migration of member records from NAWDP's old outdated database into this new system that will operate behind a new web site.

Upon launch, NAWDP members will be notified that they can visit the new site to set up their own user name and password to access the member portal, where they can update and manage their own profiles and preferences. Membership numbers will necessarily change as we transition to this new system, but NAWDP staff will be here to help you through the changes.

From that point on, doing business with NAWDP will begin to get much easier: renewing your membership, and registering for a conference will be the first two primary transactions where you'll see improvement. At this stage, however, the appearance of the site will still be under construction, so we will continue to ask for your patience!

Next on the list, and a critical portion of Phase 2 development and implementation will focus on testing out our new online CWDP application process. Rather than the cumbersome printing and mailing process, all forms will now be accessible in an electronic format, which will then be emailed to applicants in a PDF format. Upon receipt of the completed PDF documents, an applicant will simply upload them into the designated area of the website and pay the required application fee. Of course, employment verifications and references are still required, but you'll be able to send links to your employers and references enabling them to complete your requested documents online, as well. When all forms have been received, NAWDP will place the completed application folder into the review process, which will have posted schedules for completion. While it's likely there will be some bugs in these new processes, we expect to have greatly improved the applicant experience by mid-year.

Third, look to see major developments in NAWDP's e-learning offerings starting mid-year as well. Right now, NAWDP's professional development committee is hard at work developing a clear and transparent process for curating webinar trainings and resources that meet the needs of many of our members. Some of these webinars will be free to NAWDP members, others will be made available for a fee, with members enjoying discounted pricing. At the same time, we are exploring options for webinar hosting platforms to offer a higher level of technical assistance; improve the ease of use for moderators, trainers and attendees; and integrate the e-commerce elements and content into NAWDP's site. At launch, we expect to be able to offer members access to a small library of free recorded webinars that align with the CWDP competencies. Over time, the result will be a growing schedule of live webinars that members can plan and budget for, paired with a growing library of recorded professional development sessions.

Finally, to respond to our members' inquiries for customized training resources, NAWDP will be creating a marketplace that allows site visitors to search for training, products and services that address particular concerns not addressed by NAWDP's curated professional development offerings. We will begin populating the NAWDP marketplace with information from our conference exhibitors, with searchable directory listings presented in a manner similar to "Angie's List." Organizations can be listed in NAWDP's marketplace regardless of whether they exhibit at our conferences by joining the organization as an Associate member. Renewable annually, this will offer the workforce development community an easy way to connect products and services with individuals and organizations searching for solutions to specific needs.



Throughout all phases of the site launch, development and beyond, NAWDP will continue to work with our members to identify issues and challenges of common interest, and begin to stand up online committees and groups where members can actively engage with peers and mentors around those interests and concerns. More timely news, information and professional development resources will be readily available, and distributed according to the preferences members set on their profile. Our monthly newsletter will begin being distributed electronically, and over time, we envision the introduction of new regular features providing members with more timely information about NAWDP's activities, events and professional development opportunities, and offering curated resources and information in accordance with new trends surfaced by member interactions. And plans are in the works to bring a new and more robust career center where site visitors can post jobs or search for new employment opportunities within the workforce industry.

All of this and more will make 2018 a very busy year for NAWDP. I'm confident you will start to find significant improvements in your member experience as a result. And with completion with every phase, we will continue to look for ways to improve and respond to the changing needs of our growing membership. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact NAWDP's Executive Director, Diane Duff, at diane@nawdp.org. Thank you for your ongoing support, and for all that you do to advance the workforce development industry.

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